



test



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Chapter 1 by Hugo Guimaraes Cayuela

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Chapter 2 by AjayTyler



That was all. After four months of preparation, the only fruit to show for the effort was a triplet of exes.

"We're getting a null reading on our end," said the technician.

"The connection's good," said the project lead. "Maybe we just don't have any data coming through yet."

"They sent the packets hours ago; we should be registering at least a few foreshocks. The scope's been clear the whole time, except for the null reading we just got." The tech checked the status for each subsystem (for the fourth time in the last hour).

By all accounts, there should have been a pallet of cargo sitting on the teleportation deck. Between the solar flares and sandstorms, relaying supplies from Earth down to the surface of Mars had been delayed. Emergency supplies would run out by the week's end. In a best-case scenario, the technical glitch was local--something wrong with the Mars base relay. That could be fixed, and the cargo could be retrieved from the relay buffer (it could remain stable in an energy state for up to two days).

However Mars had a temperament worthy of its namesake, and storms were not infrequent

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